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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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	Poland (Stetlin)	REPORT		25 X ′
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Now reconstruction is proceeding at a much faster pace because of more supplies and because the population is more settled. The people are still afraid that the material allocations may be withdrawn, so they work harder to accomplish what they can while the material is available.

POLITICAL CONDITIONS AND ATTITUDES

- 5. The people are deathly afreid of the Stalinist element of the Polish Communist Party. They fear to discuss politics in public places and glance around in coffee houses to see if they can recognize members of the secret police.
- 6. The people realize that they have an economic tie to other satellite nations. They also feel that they are members of a Middle European pan-Slavic cultural group. They have the Russians intensely because of the Katyn massacre, the crushing of the Hungarian revolt, Russia's failure to help the Warsaw uprising, and because they resent the supposed cultural superiority of the USSR.
- 7. The people are satisfied with the present Communist regime because they have seen the failure of democracy in Central Europe.

EXCHANGE RATES AND PRICES

8. The official exchange rate is 24 zlotys per US dollar but the black market rate is 100 zlotys per dollar. A pair of the cheapest shoes cost 500 zlotys and a pair of good shoes cost 1200 zlotys.

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